

# NEVADA Connections

*Produced by Community College Southern Nevada to connect resources for Nevada's adult workforce*

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patients in California with type 2 diabetes. Researchers found a direct correlation between patients' literacy levels and their success in controlling their hemoglobin levels, concluding, "Inadequate health literacy may contribute to the disproportionate burden of diabetes-related problems among disadvantaged populations." The researchers used the short form of the *Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults*.

Last December, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released results of a survey showing that one-fifth of Spanish-speaking Latinos who live in communities with fast-growing Latino populations say they did not seek needed medical treatment because of language barriers. Patients and providers agreed that the language barrier significantly compromises health care quality. Patients said it was very difficult to explain symptoms, ask questions, and follow through with prescription medications. Many said they did not really trust their doctors to understand their needs.

Earlier in 2001, Martha Katz, deputy director for policy and legislation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told a health literacy conference that "Racial and ethnic health disparities persist in outcomes as diverse as infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, cancer screening, cancer treatment, heart disease, asthma, diabetes and other diseases and conditions."

On page 2 are several health resources particularly applicable to teaching adult literacy/ESL students.

Recent studies have shown what most adult basic education practitioners likely know from experience: literacy affects health.

The *Journal of the American Medical Association* (July 24/31, 2002) reported on a study of 408 English- and Spanish-speaking

The *Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults* is used to measure functional health literacy — both numeracy and reading comprehension — using actual health-related materials such as prescription bottle labels and appointment slips.

TOFHLA was developed at Georgia State University under a grant to Emory University from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It was first published in 1995. The package (ISBN: 1-928836-11-9) containing the full and short versions in English and Spanish is available from Peppercorn Books & Press (336.574.1634, [post@peppercornbooks.com](mailto:post@peppercornbooks.com), [www.peppercornbooks.com](http://www.peppercornbooks.com)) for \$37.50 plus \$10 shipping and handling.

# Resources



## Tips for handling sensitive health issues

Uncomfortable about taking on health topics in your adult class? Worried that the issues might bring up very personal experiences for your students? Unsure about your knowledge of U.S. health care practices? Check out the helpful chart, *Teachers' Concerns About Incorporating Health Into Adult Education*, by Joan LaMachia and Elizabeth Morrish at

<http://www.sabes.org/resources/fieldnotes/vol10/f04conc.htm>. You'll find these and other issues addressed, along with potential solutions.



## Free Health Literacy Materials

Source: *Thursday Notes U.S. Department of Education*, June 27, 2002

? Materials on drug abuse, having a healthy baby, and (coming soon) minority health issues, all for low-level readers, are available free from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). After practitioners pointed out the dearth of material to prepare students for the GED science section, AAAS scouted resources and developed several sets of materials for struggling readers that would allow them to get a handle on some aspects of science. See <http://ehrweb.aaas.org/scilit/> and <http://www.healthlit.org/> [each has some items] or contact Chickona Royster at AAAS, 202/326-6454.

? You will find information specific to gender, age, and ethnic groups at [www.healthfinder.com](http://www.healthfinder.com). Click on "just for you."

? Visit the Health and Literacy Special Collection at [www.worlded.org/us/health/lincs/](http://www.worlded.org/us/health/lincs/) for:

- Health curricula for literacy or ESOL classes,
- Resources to provide basic health information in simple language,
- Information about the link between literacy and health status, and
- Links to organizations dedicated to health and literacy education.

The site is part of the National Institute for Literacy's LINCS project. Paul Heavenridge, director of the Western/Pacific Literacy Network for LINCS, will be presenting to Nevadans at Focus Day, November 1<sup>st</sup> (see page 3).



## Background

? The February 2002 issue of *Focus on Basics* is devoted to literacy and health. The magazine is a quarterly publication geared toward connecting research and practice; it is published by the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL)

Also from NCSALL: the video *In Plain Language: The Need for Effective Communication in Medicine and Public Health*, in VHS and DVD for \$10.00 each. Contents include:

- Adults with low literacy share their experiences,
- Public health professionals discuss the impact of low literacy on health,
- Doctors talk about the role of literacy in interactions with patients,
- Practitioners focus on plain language, and
- Researchers suggest communication strategies.

To access these resources, visit <http://gseweb.harvard.edu/~ncsall/>, click on "teaching and training materials," then on "publications."

? Susan Graf, literacy coordinator at the State Literacy Resource Center, reports that Joan Zenan, library director of the Savitt Medical Library at UNR recommended [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/) as a comprehensive, searchable source for background information on medical topics. For additional health literacy resources, contact Susan at 800/445-9673, [sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us](mailto:sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us)

**November 1<sup>st</sup> is National Family Literacy Day**



# FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY TRAINING DAY 6<sup>th</sup> Annual LITERACY AWARDS LUNCHEON November 1-2, 2002 \* Carson City

IN ORDER TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING, Nevada Literacy Coalition (NLC) & Nevada Adult Education Association (NAEA) sponsor this training opportunity for teachers of adults: Adult Education, ABE, ESL, and GED and family literacy practitioners.

## Friday Sessions:

Dr. Marie Hassett, **Steck Vaughn**: GED 2002

Robert B. Miller, **INTELECOM** Intelligent Telecommunications: EL/Civics resources in *Crossroads Café* and *On Common Ground* [www.intelecom.org](http://www.intelecom.org)

Chris and Ralph Gilstrap, Interactive Learning Technologies:  
**ELLIS and Lifetime Library** [ESL and GED products]

Val Brady, **EFF** (Equipped For the Future) and **TV411 Crosswalk**

John Fleischman, **Cyberstep/English for All**: Low Cost Tools for Adult Teachers & Learners

Paul Heavenridge, National Institute for Literacy's "Literacy Information and Communication System" (**LINCS**) and other Web-based resources

Dr. Reed Scull, UNR Independent Learning: **Distance Education and Adult Learning**

**PLATO Learn**/PLATO Web Learning Network

Tours: **State Literacy Resource Center** (SLRC)  
<http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nsia/literacy/slr.htm>

NOON: Lunch Business meeting of Nevada Adult Education Association (NAEA)

## Saturday Sessions:

Patricia Miller, KPNB Public Television: **TEACHING WITH VIDEO**

**Adult Learner Focus Group** with Julia Ratti

Vendor Exhibits and Demonstrations

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Literacy Awards Luncheon - Noon to 2:00pm**

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For registration or nomination information, please call 800/445-WORD or 775/684-3340

## *Connecting resources for Nevada's adult workforce*

### **Free training available to all adult educators in Nevada**

Throughout this academic year, ABE leadership funds will provide in-depth training on a variety of timely subjects in support of the goals of the Nevada Five-year State Plan for Adult Basic Education.

The full-day workshops are geared to the specific needs of programs funded through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. Each funded program may choose two workshops for on-site presentation and will act as host for the event. These trainings are open to ALL adult educators in Nevada — no matter where they work — on a space-available basis. Contact the appropriate host for these upcoming workshops:

<u>Title/date/place</u>	<u>Host (contact)</u>	<u>Presenter and objectives</u>
ESL 101 Part I 11/1/02 Las Vegas	Lyn Pizor Catholic Charities 702/693-6761, <a href="mailto:lynpizor@yahoo.com">lynpizor@yahoo.com</a>	Maxine Frauman-Prickel 1) Define the basic elements that contribute to language acquisition 2) Identify classroom strategies for developing listening and speaking skills in adult ESL students 3) Describe cooperative-learning structures that foster language acquisition
Learning Disabilities 11/16/02 Fallon	Suzanne Graves Lahontan Val. Lit. Vol. 775/423-8583, <a href="mailto:lvlit@churchillcounty.org">lvlit@churchillcounty.org</a>	Lyn Pizor 1) Recognize learning differences 2) Find strategies to help LD students succeed 3) Know where to refer students for help

For general information regarding these workshops, contact Rachael Dilling, 702/363-2728,  
[www.girafix1@yahoo.com](mailto:www.girafix1@yahoo.com).